

**Notice of Allowability**

Application No.

09/689,092

Examiner

Namitha Pillai

Applicant(s)

KOBAYASHI ET AL.

Art Unit

2173

**-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--**

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to amendment submitted on 7/6/05.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-7,9 and 10.
3. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
  - a) ☒ All    b) ☐ Some\*    c) ☐ None    of the:
  1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
  3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* Certified copies not received: \_\_\_\_\_.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

**THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.**

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
  5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS ( as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
    - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review ( PTO-948) attached
      - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.
    - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

**Attachment(s)**

1. ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),  
Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit  
of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413),  
Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_
7. ☐ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other \_\_\_\_\_

**RAYMOND J. BAYERL**  
**PRIMARY EXAMINER**  
**ART UNIT 2173**

## **DETAILED ACTION**

### ***Response to Amendment***

1. The Examiner acknowledges Applicant's submission on 7/6/05, wherein claims 1, 9 and 10 were amended to better specify the present invention and claim 8 was cancelled. Claims 1-7 and 9-10 are allowable.

### ***Response to Arguments***

2. Applicant's arguments filed 7/6/05 have been fully considered. Applicant's arguments with respect to Allison not disclosing a layer-count acquiring means have been fully considered and are persuasive. Allison discloses a display layout of hierarchical arrays that are like the hierarchical arrays taught in the present claims, but Allison does not further teach a layer count acquiring means for acquiring the number of hierarchical layers to be displayed. Therefore, the rejection of claims 1-7 and 9-10 has been withdrawn.

### ***Allowable Subject Matter***

3. Claims 1-7 and 9-10 are allowed. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

With respect to independent claims 1 and 9-10, Allison discloses the icon layout, wherein a hierarchical array method is used for displaying the icons, and wherein user selection of these icons allows for the arrays to be displayed varying from one level to another. The independent claims have been further amended with a customization feature that allows for a layer count acquiring means for determining the number of hierarchical layers to be displayed. The prior art deals with the display and

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manipulation of the icons and the hierarchical levels that are being displayed but does allow for a customization process for acquiring the layer count of the hierarchical levels that are to be displayed. Proper motivation cannot also be determined for a combination of such a customization process of a layer count acquiring means with the detailed hierarchical description provided in these present claims.

Since claims 2-7 depend on claim 1 and include all of the limitations of these claims, claims 2-7 are considered allowable for the reasons in which claim 1 is allowable.

Any comments considered necessary by Applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance".

### ***Conclusion***

4. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Namitha Pillai whose telephone number is (571) 272-4054. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:30 AM - 5:30 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, John Cabeca can be reached on (571) 272-4048.

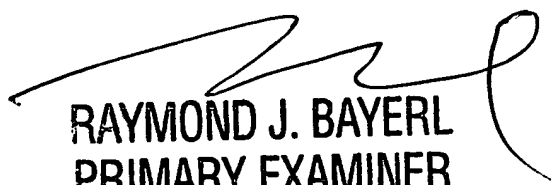
All Internet e-mail communications will be made of record in the application file. PTO employees do not engage in Internet communications where there exists a possibility that sensitive information could be identified or exchanged unless the record includes a properly signed express waiver of the confidentiality requirements of 35

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U.S.C. 122. This is more clearly set forth in the Interim Internet Usage Policy published in the Official Gazette of the Patent and Trademark on February 25, 1997 at 1195 OG 89.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the Group receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 305-3800.

Namitha Pillai  
Assistant Examiner  
Art Unit 2173  
September 16, 2005



RAYMOND J. BAYERL  
PRIMARY EXAMINER  
ART UNIT 2173